



# Kansas Economic Update

November 18, 2016

## Summary

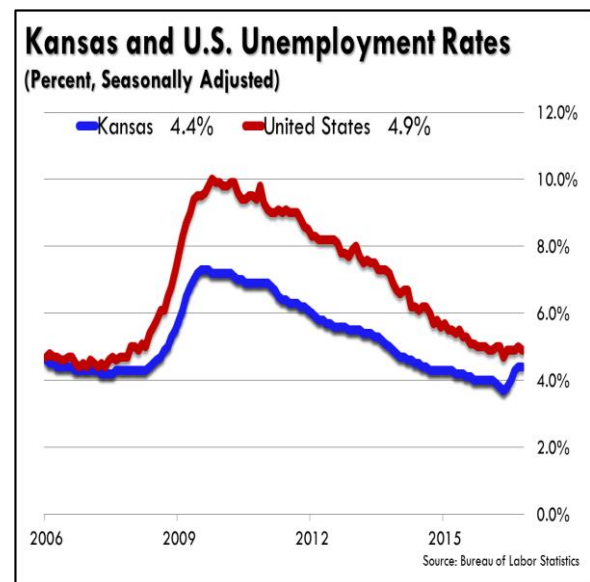
Nonfarm payroll employment in Kansas increased by 900 jobs, and the unemployment rate was unchanged at 4.4 percent in October according to data released by the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS).

## Kansas Unemployment Rate

During October, the unemployment rate in Kansas was unchanged at 4.4 percent. The number of people counted as unemployed rose by 431 in October to 65,435, while the labor force grew by 333 to 1,483,372. Among the 50 states and the District of Columbia, 19 posted lower unemployment rates for the month than Kansas. A year earlier, the unemployment rate in Kansas stood at 4.0 percent.

The 10-year peak for the unemployment rate in Kansas was 7.3 percent in September 2009. This also represents the series high for the unemployment rate in Kansas. The 10-year low for the unemployment rate in Kansas was 3.7 percent in May 2016. The series low for the unemployment rate in Kansas occurred in August 1978 when the unemployment rate was 2.9 percent. BLS began publishing the state unemployment rate series in 1976.

The national unemployment rate declined by 0.1 percentage point to 4.9 percent in October. October's unemployment rate was 0.1 percentage point lower than a year earlier. The 10-year high for the national unemployment rate was 10.0 percent in October 2009. The 10-year low was 4.4 percent in May 2007.



## Kansas Payroll Employment

Kansas nonfarm payrolls increased by 900 jobs, or 0.06 percent, on a seasonally adjusted basis during October. In the prior month, nonfarm payrolls declined by 600. Over the past 12 months, nonfarm payrolls in Kansas declined by 5,300, or 0.38 percent. Kansas nonfarm payroll employment has increased in 6 of the past 12 months.

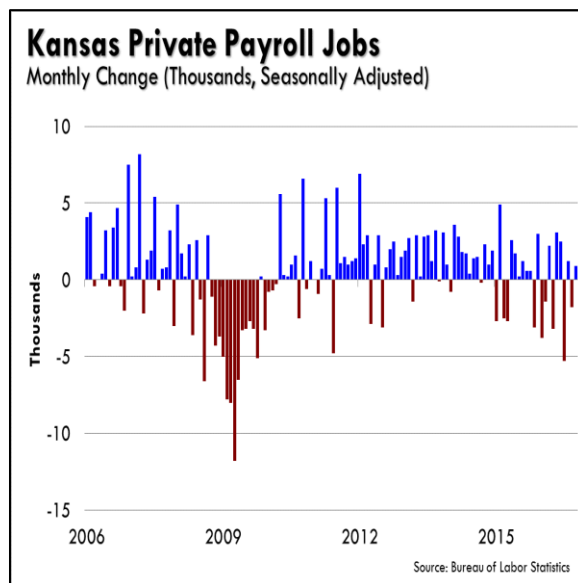
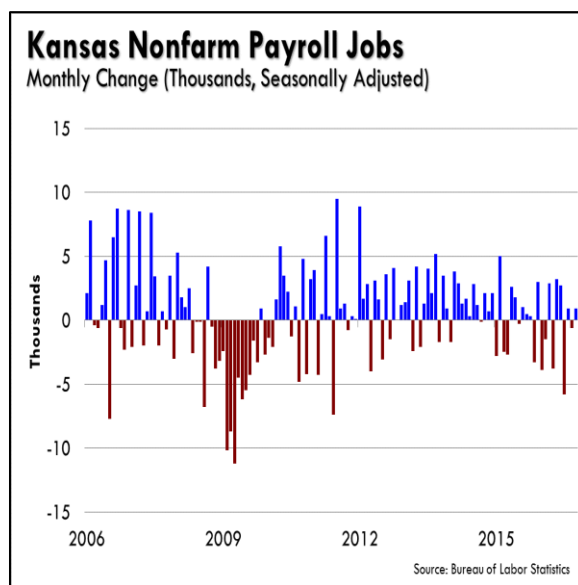
Nationally, nonfarm payrolls increased by 161,000 jobs in October, or 0.11 percent. Over the 12-month period ending October 2016, nonfarm payrolls grew by 2,357,000 jobs, or 1.65 percent. Kansas ranks 48th among the 50 states and the District of Columbia for percentage gain in nonfarm payroll employment over the past 12 months.

During October, Kansas private-sector payrolls increased by 900, or 0.08 percent. Private-sector payrolls declined by 1,800 jobs in the prior month. Over the past 12 months, private-sector payrolls in Kansas declined by 5,700, or 0.50 percent. Kansas private-sector payroll employment has increased in 6 of the past 12 months.

Nationally, private-sector payroll jobs increased by 142,000 jobs in October, or 0.12 percent. Over the past 12 months, the nation's economy has added 2,149,000 jobs in the private-sector, an increase of 1.78 percent. Kansas ranks 47th among the 50 states and the District of Columbia for percentage gain in private-sector payroll employment over the past 12 months.

During October, total government payroll employment in Kansas was unchanged. Federal government payroll employment was unchanged. State government payroll employment increased by 100, or 0.19 percent, while local government payroll employment increased by 700, or 0.40 percent.

Over the past year, total government payroll employment increased by 400, or 0.16 percent. State government payroll employment increased by 100, or 0.19 percent. Local government payroll employment increased by 800, or 0.46 percent.



The best performing sectors on a seasonally adjusted basis during October were Manufacturing (+700) and Trade, Transportation & Utilities (+300). The poorest performing sectors during the month were Educational & Health Services (-300) and Mining & Logging (-200).

The best performing sectors during the last twelve months were Financial Activities (+1,900) and Leisure & Hospitality (+400). The poorest performing sectors during the last twelve months were Construction (-4,700) and Information (-1,400).

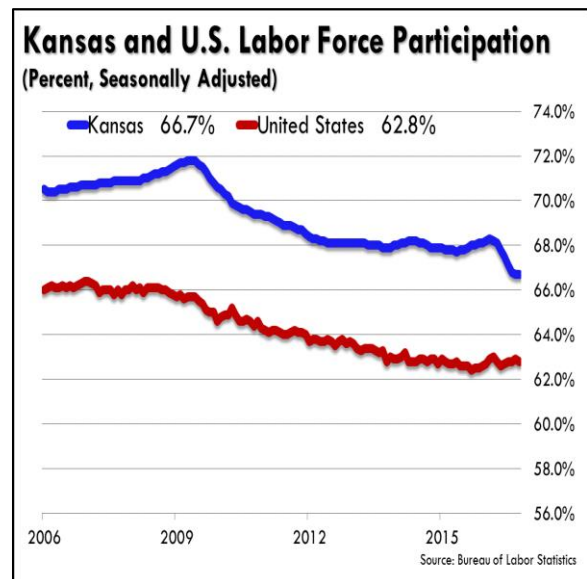
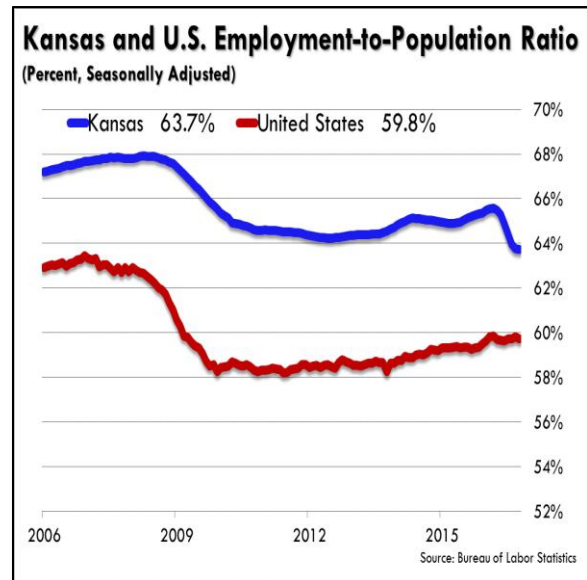
#### Other Kansas Labor Force Statistics

The labor force participation rate in Kansas was unchanged at 66.7 percent in October. Among the 50 states and the District of Columbia, 12 have a higher labor force participation rate than Kansas. The labor force participation rate in Kansas is 1.3 percentage point lower than a year earlier. The labor force participation rate is the percentage of the civilian noninstitutionalized population age 16 and older who are employed or actively looking for work.

The 10-year high for the labor force participation rate in Kansas was 71.8 percent in June 2009. The series high for the labor force participation rate in Kansas occurred in December 1998 when the labor force participation rate hit 72.2 percent. The 10-year low for the labor force participation rate was 66.7 percent in October 2016. The series low for the labor force participation rate occurred in February 1976 when the labor force participation rate hit 64.6 percent.

The national labor force participation rate declined by 0.1 percentage point to 62.8 percent in October 2016, but remains near its 38-year low of 62.4 percent.

The employment-to-population ratio, or the percentage of the Kansas civilian noninstitutionalized population 16 years and older counted as employed, declined to 63.7 percent in October from 63.8 percent the prior month. Among the 50 states and the District of Columbia, 12 have higher employment-to-population ratios than Kansas. The



employment-to-population ratio in Kansas is 1.6 percentage points lower than a year earlier.

The 10-year high for the employment-to-population ratio in Kansas was 67.9 percent in June 2008. The series high for the employment-to-population ratio in Kansas occurred in January 1999 when the employment-to-population ratio hit 69.7 percent. The 10-year low for the employment-to-population ratio was 63.7 percent in September 2016. The series low for the employment-to-population ratio occurred in March 1976 when the employment-to-population ratio was 61.7 percent.

The national employment-to-population ratio declined by 0.1 percentage point to 59.7 percent in October. That rate was 0.4 percentage point higher than a year earlier. The all-time high for the employment-to-population ratio was 64.7 in April 2000. The 10-year high for the employment-to-population ratio was 63.4 percent in December 2006. The recent low occurred in October 2013 when the employment-to-population ratio dipped to 58.2 percent. The last time the employment-to-population ratio posted a reading lower than 58.2 percent was July 1983.

State employment and unemployment data for November is scheduled for release on December 16, 2016. The national employment situation report for November will be released on Friday, December 2, 2016.